Installation of toll tax machines

†811. SHRIMATI KUM KUM RAI: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether modern machines for collecting toll tax have been installed on New Delhi-Agra and New Delhi-Jaipur Highways;

(b) if not, the amount of loss of toll tax being suffered every day; and

(d) by when, these toll tax collection machines would be installed there?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Nil.

(c) Delhi-Agra Section:

Bariri Plaza: Permanent new Toll Plaza handed over to O&M operator on 5th November, 2004. Installation of new Toll collection equipment is targeted by May, 2005.

Shnagar Plaza: Permanent Toll Plaza construction is targeted to be completed by May, 2005 and new Toll collection equipment is likely to be installed by December, 2005.

Delhi—Jaipur Section:

Bilaspurand Manoharpur Plazas (NH-8): New Toll collection equipment is targeted to be installed by May, 2005.

Lighthouses at places of tourist interests

812. SHRI EKANATH K.THAKUR: Will the Minister of SHIPPING ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that his Ministry have accepted the suggestion to develop lighthouses as visiting places of tourist interest *via* cruise vessels; and

(b) if so, the number of lighthouses around the Indian coasts and the places where the new lighthouses would be set up?

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† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Truckers'strike

813. SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the terms and conditions on which the truckers' strike in August this year, was resolved; and

(b) the loss of revenue, if any involved therein?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) The All India strike by the truckers in August this year was resolved following signing of two separate agreements by this Ministry and Ministry of Finance (Department of Revenue), copies of which are enclosed as Statement-I and II (See below).

(b) The loss of revenue on account of this strike has not been assessed by the Ministry.

Statement-I

Minutes of the meeting between representatives of the Transport Industry and Department of Revenue, Government of India, held on 27th August, 2004

1. Government reiterates that the Service Tax on Goods Transport Agency will not fall on truck owners or truck operators. The truck owners or truck operators will not be required to collect or pay any Service Tax. Government will make suitable rules/notifications as required and also define "commercial concern" and "consignment note" to make it clear that truck owners and truck operators are not required to pay or collect Service Tax. The rules/notifications will be finalized in consultation with a Committee set up for this purpose. Service tax will be levied and collected on the basis of the said rules/notifications. The Committee which will include representatives from the transport industry and Government will look into appropriate mechanism/modalities for collection and payment of Service